



## Public Health Link

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### **MPH Program Mission**

The mission of the graduate Master of Public Health (MPH) program is to enhance the health of our communities through the development of future public health leaders via multidisciplinary education, research, community practice, and service.

### **MPH Program Vision**

Our vision is that the Thomas Jefferson University's MPH program is recognized as a center of excellence for integrative population health training throughout the greater Philadelphia region and beyond.

### **MPH Program Goals**

#### **Instruction Goals**

To provide all MPH students with quality graduate level education in core and elective courses and in community-based learning opportunities via Clerkship and Capstone projects that facilitate student mastery of public health competencies.

#### **Research Goals**

To provide opportunities and train all MPH students in the development and translation of public health research through coursework and the Capstone research project.

#### **Service Goals**

To provide structured service-learning opportunities for students through Clerkship, Capstone and other continuing education initiatives as formal and informal components of the MPH program and to encourage faculty to participate in public health community.

# Public Health Link

JEFFERSON COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH E-NEWS

## MPH Spotlight

### **Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting & SAPHE Student Awards**

On May 28th, the MPH CAB had its annual Spring meeting and students and faculty alike were invited. The purpose of the meeting was to update our CAB about all of the changes in the program and the progress we have made.



Roundtable discussion with students, faculty, and CAB

After a introduction and a summary of student enrollment numbers, the CAB was updated on the status of our Re-Accreditation process and received selections from our first self-study draft to review.

They discussed workforce and professional development and plans for the next academic year, such as a plan to focus on interdisciplinary relationships, new public health electives that will be offered, opportunities in international health, and connections with undergraduate institutions. As far as beyond the 08-09 academic year, the new school of Health Policy and Population Health was announced and discussed.

Another major discussion was the role of the CAB member and how we can connect them to our students more successfully in the future. At this point, groups were formed consisting of some CAB members, faculty, and students to discuss ideas in roundtable format.

Some of the inspiring ideas that came out of these discussions are linking students and CAB members early on in the program, obtain interests and areas of expertise from CAB members and make that list available to students, highlighting CAB members in future newsletters, and encourage CAB members to provide input on the program.

Immediately following this meeting, was the SAPHE student organization's Student Awards Ceremony. This awards ceremony is the first of a plan to host a culmi-

nating event close to Commencement every year. The students selected a member of the community that they deemed worthy of the Excellence in Community Service Award. That person was Dr. Barbara Watson. She directs the AFIX (Assessment, Feedback, Information Exchange) activities that measure appropriate use of vaccinations in physician offices, triggering feedback and more programmatic education focused on missed opportunities to vaccinate. Dr. Watson has been and is the principal investigator for numerous children vaccine studies performed while Director of Vaccine Evaluation at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Albert Einstein Medical Center.

The second award given was presented by our Program Director, Dr. Rob Simmons. It was the Georganne K. Buescher Memorial Outstanding MPH Student Award. Edward Grove was the recipient of this award due to his leadership among students, his participation in the program and at events, and his service in the community. The core MPH faculty chose Mr. Grove because they felt he embodied a who a public health student should be.

A faculty member is chosen by SAPHE to receive an award honoring them for their dedication to students and the program. However, in a tie vote, there were two faculty members selected. Dr. Al Crawford, Biostatistics instructor and Dr. Rickie Brawer, who has lead the Re-Accreditation process and is co-leading Capstone Seminar.

On a final note, the MPH program acknowledged the students who will be completing the program requirements this year.

The event concluded with a reception in the lobby of Bluemle Building where students, faculty, and CAB members were able to connect and converse.



Award winners from left to right: Dr. Al Crawford, MPH student Ed Grove, Dr. Barbara Watson, Dr. Rickie Brawer

**The MPH Program would like to Congratulate those who have finished the MSPH program and those who are on track to by the end of August:**

Meejin Ahn  
Cynthia Buono  
Rochelle Bray  
Elise Chiquoine  
James Fink  
Joshua Gagne  
Natalia Griga  
Edward Grove  
Amy Marshall  
Dionissios Neofytos  
Abbie Santana  
Harjeet Sembhi  
Bennett Shenker  
Amy Talati  
Carla Thomas  
Brian Wallin

## Re-Accreditation Update

The MPH program is up for re-accreditation and working diligently to fulfill the requirements and welcome the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Site Visitors on Oct. 13 & 14. The Self-Study draft was handed in mid-May and we will hear a response by mid-July. Our final Self-Study will then be handed into CEPH mid-September.

## National Public Health Week: The Public Health Response to Climate Change in Philadelphia

A luncheon symposium about climate change and public health was held during National Public Health Week. The April 9 event took place in the atrium of the Alumni Hall and featured three speakers who addressed the health effects of climate change and one who focused on energy efficiency as a key element of the solution. Three speakers were recognized with awards for their long standing efforts.

National Public Health Week is a commemorative week planned annually by the American Public Health Association. This year's theme, Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance, was endorsed by nearly 200 organizational partners who acted in an advisory capacity to APHA on planning for the week and sponsored theme events around the country. On its website, NPHW.org, the APHA published a Toolkit, a White Paper, and a Blueprint for action in preparation for the week. Dr. Mona Sarfaty served on the national advisory committee for the week. At least five events took place within the city limits of Philadelphia.

Dr. Sarfaty led the program with a presentation about the health effects of climate change. While the health effects vary by region of the country and geography, consistent dangers such as injury due to extreme weather events, water borne and vector borne diseases, heat stress, and poor air quality are all risks that are tied to temperature. She introduced Darlene Messina, Joseph Minott, and Randolph Haines who spoke on three topics of great relevance to climate and Health.

Darlene Messina spoke on the Urban Heat Island effect. Until recently, she served as the city coordinator for sustainability, working out of the city manager's office, a position in which she coordinated the development of Philadelphia's Climate Change Action Plan. She spoke on the phenomena of higher ambient temperatures in the inner city compared to suburbs and country landscapes. This is referred to as the Urban Heat Island. She described the causes and effects of the urban heat island and how to prevent it. She also described an alert system put in place by the City of

Philadelphia to protect vulnerable citizens, especially the elderly and young children, from the potential consequences of heat stress. The system contacts places where vulnerable seniors gather and provides cooling centers and other assistance. The system was initiated after a heat wave was responsible for more than 100 deaths in Philadelphia in 1993.

Joseph Minott, Executive Director of the Clean Air Council in Philadelphia, discussed the impact of air pollution on air quality when temperatures rise. Mr. Minott has over twenty years of community organizing experience, and has received statewide recognition for his work on the problem of urban transportation and urban air pollution. He is on the City of Philadelphia's Air Pollution Control Board (APCB). He explained that ozone formation increases in the presence of vehicle exhaust and heat and light. Increased ozone is formed in heavily trafficked areas on warm sunny days and can have highly detrimental impact on people who suffer with asthma or chronic lung disease. This affects the entire city. People who live along the I-95 corridor may be at even greater risk. Thus, cleaner air can actually protect the population from the potentially damaging effects of ozone formation.

The final speaker was Randolph Haines, chief Energy Manager for the Jefferson Health System. Mr. Haines has 31 years of experience in facilities management. He serves as President of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers. Mr. Haines delineated the energy saving measure that have been implemented at Jefferson during the 10 years that he has taken responsibility for energy management. These include reliance on fluorescent lighting, thermostats which decrease the heat at night automatically, motion sensitive light switches, and many other energy saving improvements. He described the many features of the new Dorance Hamilton building that exemplify the most current energy saving designs. Despite the fact that the Jefferson system added thousands of additional square foot of office space and now totals more than 10 million square feet, energy use actually declined over the same 10 year period.

Haines announced that Jefferson would greatly release its reliance on wind power over the next ten years. He brought compact fluorescent light bulbs that could be handed to each participant in the luncheon. There were approximately 75 attendees. The Alumni Hall atrium was specially equipped with recycling bins to ensure that all boxes, paper, cans, and bottles from the luncheon could be recycled.

Each of the invited speakers had spent many years working in their varied capacities on behalf of healthful environments in Philadelphia. In appreciation of their efforts, they were honored with an award.



Speakers from left to right: Joseph Minott, Esq., Mona Sarfaty, MD, Randolph Haines, CEM, Darlene Messina, MS

## Public Health Student Excels Locally & Nationally



Public Health student, Edward Grove, who presented his thesis in April on Evaluation of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine Administration Patterns in Philadelphia thereby completing his requirements for the MSPH program has been making his mark in Public Health.

Grove won a Thomas Jefferson University, College of Graduate Studies Travel Alumni Fellowship and used it to attend the National Immunization Conference in Atlanta in March.

He also won best poster presentation in the College of Physician's section on Public Health and Preventative Medicine Student Poster Section.

Grove also received the Georganne K. Buescher Memorial Outstanding Student Award from the MPH Program this May at the SAPHE Student Award Ceremony.

MPH Student Ed Grove receiving Outstanding Student Award from Dr. Rob Simmons, Program Director

His abstract, Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine in Philadelphia: Strong Provider Uptake but Low Levels of Subsequent Dose Compliance, has been selected as one of just ten from the nation for the APHA (American Public Health Association) Public Health Education and Health Promotion Selection (PHEHP) Student Research Award Winners. Grove will be presenting his research at the PHEHP Student Awards Poster Session during the APHA in San Diego, CA October 27.

## Health Information Technology (HIT) Initiatives: Linking Healthcare, Consumers and Public Health A Public Health Informatics Perspective

On April 28, the MPH Program and Department of Health Policy hosted a forum on Health Information Technology (HIT) with a Public Health Perspective.

Increased use of HIT is expected to have a significant impact on medical care, research, and specifically public and population health. There are many Federal and state HIT initiatives in progress, with the goal of improving healthcare quality and efficiency. The use of standards-based electronic health records (EHRs) and Personal Health Records (PHRs) allows for the orderly exchange of crucial information between participants in the design of business processes and development of standards to help leverage the emerging health information exchanges to perform core public health services.

Providers, consumers, researchers, and public health professionals participated in this forum to discuss the opportunities and barriers to the expanding uses of health information for care decisions, health outcomes, program and policy decision-making, and new opportunities for community collaboration.

Dr. David B. Nash, professor and Chairman of the Department of Health Policy and Dr. Rob Simmons, Director of the MPH program welcomed guests and introduced speakers.

Susan Salkowitz, MA, MGA, Health Information Systems Consultant, Salkowitz Associates, LLC and Ruth Gubernick, MPH, Public Health Consultant, Practice Improvement, started off the discussion describing what Public Health Informatics is.

Dr. John Loonsk, Acting Director for Interoperability and Standards at the Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the National Coordinator, spoke about National HIT Initiatives and Public Health participation in standards activities and health information exchanges.

Mark Jacobs, MHA, CPHIMS, Director of Technology Services at Wellspan Health and Vice Chairman of Pennsylvania eHealth Initiative, followed with a discussion about Pennsylvania HIT Initiatives and PA eHealth Initiative and Chronic Care Management Commission.

Jim Lutz, MPA, Manager/CDC Senior Public Health Advisor of the Immunization Program at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health finished the discussion on the topic of a Local Public Health Informatics Case Study—Philadelphia Immunization Information System.

The forum wrapped up with a group discussion on all topics.

## Health Policy Forum Fall 2008

### Sep 10: What Language are You Speaking? Why Communication is a Patient Safety Issue

Mario Moussa, PhD, MBA, *Principal*, Center for Applied Research, Inc.

### Oct 8: Assessing Physician Performance: Challenges and Opportunities

Louis Diamond, MD, ChB, FACP, *Vice President & Medical Director*, Thomson Reuters

### Nov 5: The Women's Wellness Guide

Leslie Stiles, *Executive Director*, Pennsylvania Commission for Women

### Dec 10: Jefferson Center for InterProfessional Education

Molly A. Rose, RN, PhD  
Christine Arenson, MD  
*Co-Directors*, Center for InterProfessional Education Thomas Jefferson



## PULSE

Please note that all MPH and Certificate of PH students, as well as MPH Faculty are members of the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program Organization on Pulse. You can find pertinent information about the program and upcoming events.



## MSPH July Thesis Presentations

**Abbie Santana**—Philadelphia Allies Against Asthma: A Comparison of the Child Asthma Link Line and Home Visit Service

**Amy Talati**—Understanding Pharmacy Students' Views of Tobacco Use and Cessation

**Rochelle Bray**—Analysis of Return Rates to Spoc Employment and Training Programs Following Completion of the Family Start Program

**Dionissios Neofytos**—Analysis of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus Surgical Site Infections: What is the Role of Community-Associated Strains?

**Presentations will be in Bluemle Building 101 from 1-3 PM on Monday July 7.**

All students are highly encouraged to attend in order to show support for your classmates and to see what to expect for your personal presentations.

**Please note:** Students are always welcome to sit in JAH M-46 and view these projects that former Public Health students have submitted.



## Upcoming New MPH Courses

**Elective Options for Fall (Registration Open Now):**

### GIS Mapping:

1 Credit, 4 Saturdays in November from 10AM—12 PM

### Pharmaco-epidemiology:

2 credits, Tuesdays

### Quality Measurement & Outcomes Analysis in Healthcare:

3 credits, Thursdays

## MPH Students Attend Health Education Advocacy Summit

Public health programs in our country currently face an uncertain future because of a lack of funding and support for proven and effective programs. On the weekend of March 15-17, we attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Education Advocacy Summit in Washington D.C with Dr. Rob Simmons. The summit is sponsored by the Coalition of National Health Education Organizations representing approximately 30,000 health educators. The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) coordinates this annual advocacy summit. Dr. Simmons is the current national president of SOPHE.

In Washington, we met with a large number of other Public Health students, faculty, and professionals who were interested in health advocacy. Through workshops, informative and experienced speakers and member state meetings, we learned about some of the most emergent health issues facing the Public Health com-

munity in the United States and ultimately were able to grasp the implications of discontinued funding and the importance of citizen participation in the advocacy of these issues.

After spending two days learning about public health advocacy and programs such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Chronic Disease Control and Health Program, the Kennedy/Cochran/Jackson bill on Minority Health and Health Disparity Elimination Act (S. 1576) and other priority programs, we took to the Hill to directly advocate for House and Senate support of these initiatives. We visited the offices of Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey and our Congressman Joe Sestak and spoke with their Legislative Health Aids to express our concern for the lack of appropriated funds for the initiatives and to ask for their support in upcoming appropriation

votes. Overall, summit attendees visited the offices of over 100 Senators and Congresspersons, leaving behind information about the importance of preventive health programs. While some offices that we visited were more receptive of our message than others, the visits were still empowering because we were given an outlet to practice speaking on health issues in the political arena.

The Health Education Advocacy Summit was an enlightening and instructive experience. It gave us the opportunity to connect with and work alongside our peers from around the country who had similar interests to our own. If we could take one thing away from our time spent, it would be that we have not only a right, but a duty as constituents and public health students to educate our representatives on current pertinent health issues.

*-Maura Murphy & Katie Thomas*

## Congratulations, April MSPH Thesis Presenters

**Meejin Ahn:** Descriptive Epidemiology of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in Philadelphia Methadone Maintenance Program Clients

**Elise Chiquoine:** HPV Prevalence in Women with Abnormal Cervical Cytology  
Visiting Family Planning Clinics in Southeastern Pennsylvania

**Natalia Griga:** Trends in Thyroid Nodule Diagnostic Procedures: Practice Patterns of Imaging Follow-Up After a Benign Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy: 10 year Experience in One Academic Medical Center

**Ed Grove:** Evaluation of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine Administration Patterns in Philadelphia

**Harjeet Sembhi:** Active Living – Resources Related to Policy and Systems Change in Philadelphia

**Bennett Shenker:** Validation of a Seated Activity Scale to assess the Effect of Sedentary Activity on Markers of Endothelial Function

**Brian Wallin:** Building A Neighborhood Wellness Center: A Community Needs Assessment in North Philadelphia

*Public Health Link edited By: Lisa Chosed, Comments & Suggestions: [Lisa.Chosed@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Lisa.Chosed@Jefferson.edu) or 3-0174.*

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